

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1365

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE RURAL PHYSICIAN INCENTIVE FUND; AMENDING SECTION 33-3724, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN MONEYS PAYABLE INTO THE FUND; AND AMENDING SECTION 33-3725, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR A PREFERENCE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 33-3724, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

33-3724. RURAL PHYSICIAN INCENTIVE FUND. There is hereby created the rural physician incentive fund in the state treasury. Money is payable into the fund as provided in section 33-3723, Idaho Code. Money is also payable into the fund from state appropriations, from private contributions, from gifts and grants, and from any other source. Income and earnings on the fund shall be returned to the fund. The state board of education shall administer the fund as provided by section 33-3725, Idaho Code. The state board of education shall identify an oversight committee made up of knowledgeable individuals or organizations to assist in the administration of this fund. Members of this oversight committee should come from the Idaho hospital association, Idaho medical association, office of rural health, Idaho rural health education center, medical student program administrators and others as appropriate.

SECTION 2. That Section 33-3725, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

33-3725. INCENTIVE PAYMENTS FROM FUND. The moneys in the rural physician incentive fund are hereby appropriated for the uses of the fund. The state board of education may use the moneys to pay:

(1) The educational debts of rural physicians who practice primary care medicine in medically underserved areas of the state that demonstrate a need for assistance in physician recruitment; and

(2) The expenses of administering the rural physician incentive program. The expenses of administering the program shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the annual fees assessed pursuant to section 33-3723, Idaho Code.

The board, through the oversight committee, shall establish procedures for determining the areas of the state that qualify for assistance in physician recruitment. An eligible area must demonstrate that a physician shortage exists or that the area has been unsuccessful in recruiting physicians by other mechanisms.

A physician from an area determined to be eligible under this section may apply to the board for payment of an educational debt directly related to a professional school. Physicians who have paid the fee authorized

1 in section 33-3723, Idaho Code, shall be given a preference over other
2 applicants. To receive the educational debt payments, the physician shall
3 sign an annual contract with the board. The contract must provide that the
4 physician is liable for the payments if the physician ceases to practice in
5 the eligible area during the contract period.

6 The maximum amount of educational debt payment that a rural physician
7 may receive is fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) over a five (5) year period.
8 The board may structure the payment schedule to make greater payments in the
9 later years. The amount contractually committed in a year shall not exceed
10 the annual amount deposited in the rural physician incentive fund.

11 When determining an applicant's eligibility, the state board of
12 education may give preference to those applicants who have paid into the
13 rural physician incentive fund pursuant to section 33-3723, Idaho Code, but
14 shall not exclude from consideration applicants who have not contributed to
15 the fund.